



The Insider

www.senate.mi.gov/switalski

Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10

October 14, 2005

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and for giving me an opportunity to represent you in the Michigan Senate. It is my sincere hope that this bi-weekly e-newsletter will keep you informed of the happenings in Lansing while staying true to the traditional style of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a library near you. Call my office and make an appointment or just walk in. See schedule for details.

Mickey's Letter Bag: Mothers-In-Law

Dear Mickey,

My husband forwarded your newsletter to me so I could read your invocation dedicated to your mother-in-law. It's so nice to know that there are other husbands out there who have been blessed with great mother-in-laws. My mom is 89, lives with us part time and wants to still feel that she is contributing to our household.....she folds and sorts clothes, cleans, picks up twigs in the yard, my flowerbeds haven't seen so much weeding in years, and says that she doesn't do much these days. I have been truly blessed to have such a gentle soul for a mother and it sounds like your mother-in-law was cut from the same bolt of cloth. As an interesting side note my mother is of Scottish, Irish, English, French, and German decent.....with the emphasis on Scottish. We can all take lessons from these two wonderful women.

Kathy Debler
Sterling Heights

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Dear Mickey:

Thank you for the great mother-in-law prayer in your newsletter that came today. My mother-in-law had 12 children; none are crooks, none are on welfare, and the 21 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren are turning out alright, too! Some of her more materialistic daughters have criticized their childhood and having to do without things, but having so many children raised by a City of Detroit employee and a stay-at-home mom was a pretty awesome feat. To say she "never worked" is a gross misunderstanding of the job she *did* do!! They learned to earn what they had and appreciated it!!

Sincerely,
Laurie O'Meara
Roseville

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Hey, thanks for the e-mails. Hope you don't mind but I published them in today's newsletter.
Mickey

Mickey's Blog: Renovating the Pyramids

When the economy is slow, we all tend to hold off on discretionary spending. When you are already cheap like me, that just reinforces a natural tendency. I have been delaying, stalling, and otherwise dragging my feet on home improvement projects for years, much to my wife Roma's dismay.

So the omens were inauspicious for Roma's list of major projects.

But my red-headed wife, like her mother Jenny, is tireless and determined.

I finally assented to having our ancient linoleum and threadbare carpet replaced with wood floors. The work went quickly, and the floors looked beautiful.

Too beautiful.

"Honey," cooed my wife. "Look how dingy that baseboard looks. We should paint that before they put the shoe molding on." I was struck with terror as visions of paint costs and painter fees ballooned before my eyes.

"Uh, yeah. Right," I stammered. As she reached for the phone to hire a painter, I blurted out "I'll run to the hardware store right now and get some paint. I'll get those baseboards done this weekend."

At 4 am Sunday morning, I crawled into bed, my body aching.

"Did you finish?" Roma yawned.

"Just a little touch up left," I assured her.

She put down the phone.

Sunday evening, as I put away the last of the brushes and sandpaper, she called me over to the dining room.

“Look how bad those walls look,” she observed, running the finger of her white gloved hand across the wall.

“I can get those,” I promised. “It’s gonna take a couple of weeks to finish.”

“That’s ok,” Roma allowed. “I never noticed how many marks there are on that ceiling.”

I pivoted.

“Well, while we have all the furniture in the garage, I could get the ceiling done,” I suggested. “That might take a little time, but we can take out time then on the walls.”

Roma eyed the phone menacingly.

“I can easily finish the ceilings this weekend, and get all the furniture back in,” I promised. “I’ll go get some ceiling paint now. I think there’s a sale.”

“While you’re out, get one of those superflush toilets,” Roma ordered. “I had them take out the toilet when they put in the bathroom floor.”

The whole world started spinning around me. I felt faint. Roma took my hand reassuringly. “It’s alright dear. I’ll come with you.”

The toilet went in with remarkable ease.

Too remarkable.

“Go back and get another one,” commanded she who must be obeyed.

“Honey, this is a half bath. I don’t think we can fit two in here,” I reasoned. “Furthermore, although I love you, this is an activity I prefer to do in private.”

“Not here you idiot,” she rejoined. “The second one is for upstairs.”

Done.

And while the floor replacement has mushroomed into a construction project rivaling the Great Pyramid at Giza, I feel that I am in my own small way helping to jump start the economy.

Besides, I got an email from Gaynell, my old girlfriend in Louisiana, who is a widow and is tearing out the sheetrock in her house by hand and chain sawing a fallen pecan tree in her backyard. She bathes in a stud walled shower with Christmas wrapping for a curtain.

Please ignore all my previous whining complaints about home improvement projects.

Mickey's TV Insider Show

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

Sterling Heights

Every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Utica

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Clinton Township

Last week of every month- Sat thru Thurs
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Roseville

Various Times
(Comcast Channel 18)

*Please note that Sterling Heights/Utica/Clinton Township will show the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 5 and Wide Open West Channel 10. Clinton Township will air the TV Insider Show at various times during the last week of every month. Roseville can see the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 18.

Coffee Hours

*Please note that since the District Office is in Roseville, I do not have set coffee hours in Roseville. However, I encourage you to visit the Roseville office. We even have a coffee pot. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee hours and discuss their issues and concerns.

October 31
7-9 p.m.

Location: Clinton-Macomb Public Library
(35891 South Gratiot, north of 15 Mile)
Clinton Township

November 7
7-9 p.m.

Location: Sterling Heights Public Library
(40255 Dodge Park Road)
Sterling Heights

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